

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

PROGRESS REPORT #3

THE KERNER REPORT AND AJC - ONE YEAR LATER*

March 1969 will mark one year since the publication of the Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders. The President's Commission, under the chairmanship of Gov. Otto Kerner of Illinois and made up of citizens of both parties, from different regions of the country and from a diversity of experience and backgrounds, warned the country that unless measures were taken quickly and massively, the drift toward separation of the races would be irreversible and the nation would be destroyed.

The Report precipitated a rash of self-appraisals, denunciations and self-flagellations, articles, editorials and meetings. However, for many Americans discussion about whether Americans were truly racist was immaterial; recognizing the emergency atmosphere, they chose to act rather than argue.

In April, 1968, following the Report, the American Jewish Committee convened four regional conferences to which chapter members throughout the country responded with great interest. Imbued with the conviction that "choice is still possible," chapters and members individually, embarked on many new and bold projects.

Last spring and summer we circulated a summary of programs adopted as follow-up to the Kerner Report.

Certain difficult questions must be asked as we review the year. Has the country improved at all since publication of the Report? Has the Report sharpened the public's awareness of racism? Has it halted the drift toward two societies? Has the Report succeeded in arousing in enough Americans the sense of urgency it demanded: "new attitudes, new understanding and above all, new will"? Has America made a massive commitment?

From March 1968 to March 1969, the country has undergone much change. The year has been characterized by recurrent crises and violent tragedies, unrest and tensions. But the manifestations of the unrest described in the Report have been vastly different from the riots of 1967. Demonstrations, protests, and sit-ins have to a great extent replaced riots and looting, except for the rampant disorders following the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Schools and colleges, instead of ghetto streets, have become the settings for these riots and violence. Protests in 1968 were characterized more by occupations of official buildings and staged confrontations than by looting and arson.

*Includes information received through February 15, 1969.

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In many cities, an eruption of anti-Semitism among some Negroes took place during the year and filled Jews with fear and anger. Symptoms had long been detected: anti-Semitism among the disaffected and uneducated is not a new phenomenon; competition between Jews and Negroes had become increasingly apparent, and friction between Jews and Negroes based on employer-employee, landlord-tenant, and buyer-seller relationships were becoming more frequent and open. The reactions by Jews to the growing anti-Semitism ranged from caution and patience to fury and withdrawal from civil rights activities. Some Jews, recognizing the continued existence of white Christian anti-Semitism, responded with the attitude, "Why should we expect Negroes to be different from other groups?" Others foresaw the beginning of a reign of terror, a replay of Nazi atrocities.

For many uneasy months, the obscene voices of the extremists predominated and those of moderate Negro leaders were noticeably silent or soft-pedalled, partly because of the tradition that one did not publicly criticize a "blood brother." The most committed and selfless Jewish leaders were forced, in this period, to take another look at their goals and at the conditions in their communities. How much anti-Semitism existed among Negroes? Was it of serious proportions? Was it deliberately injected by a particular group, by provocateurs, by outside agents?

Perhaps in some communities where extremists were most visible and received wide publicity, there was a slowdown in Jewish participation in anti-poverty and civil rights work. However, when some of the confrontations ceased and tensions diminished (as in New York with the end of the teachers' strike), and as Negro and white Christian leaders increasingly spoke out denouncing anti-Semitism, the air has become somewhat cooler.

In general, AJC members did not "over-react." Among AJC people in most communities there was a conviction that what Jews were doing to help the disadvantaged and to improve the cities was essentially right and that while extremists should be exposed and repudiated, they formed a small but raucous minority. These members, relating to Negroes with whom they worked, remained confident that their goals were proper, and continued with their work, convinced that what they were doing was just, and that their efforts might help create a better atmosphere. The summary which follows describes the attempts in several cities to establish dialogue between Jews and Negroes and to urge leaders of the community to make forthright statements against anti-Semitism.

In February 1969, Arthur J. Goldberg, President of AJC and Roy Wilkins, Executive Director of the NAACP, issued a joint statement against racial and religious hatred, and an appeal for all groups to move quickly against manifestations of prejudice. The statement was signed by more than a score of prominent Negro, Christian and Jewish leaders, and a committee made up of these leaders has been created to be alert to critical situations, to respond quickly and firmly to counter intergroup conflicts and to develop programs to prevent such flare-ups.

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The year has seen some notable advances. The economic conditions in the country have improved in many respects. The median income of families in the United States rose by 4% in real purchasing power to \$8,000 a year. An estimated total number of 4 million people were lifted from poverty in 1968. However, the proportion of nonwhites among the poor still constitutes 32% of the total. Recent upgrading has produced a great gain in the kinds of jobs held by Negroes and many positions formerly closed to nonwhites have become available.

The congestion of the cities, the high unemployment rates in ghetto areas (the jobless rate for Negro teenagers averages more than 30%), and the concentration of crime, disease and alienation ("social pathology of poverty") exist as potential sources of next summer's riots and year-round turmoil. Of 11.6 million people living in poverty neighborhoods of the nation's largest metropolitan areas, almost 40% were Negroes. "The unemployment situation in the poverty areas was little changed between the first quarters of 1967 and 1968." (Monthly Labor Review, August 1968.)

The commitment has not been massive "on a scale equal to the dimension of the problems." The kind of public effort which the Report called for has not been forthcoming nor is it envisaged in the near future. Private efforts, however, while insufficient to the need, have increased considerably. The shells of indifference and insularity are cracking. Many business, labor and religious leaders have become more conscious of community responsibility, aware of urban and social problems, and eager to work on their solution.

AJC has been a leader in cities throughout the country in demonstrating this will. The Los Angeles Chapter received a letter from the Governor's office expressing admiration, not unlike what many other AJC Chapters have received. The letter reads: "I can say that the work of the AJC represents one of the finest and best planned attacks on a wide range of public problems that we have come across."

A sign of the times is the change in the name of a group in Cincinnati with significant AJC representation, which has achieved great success in helping Negroes develop their own business. The group, formerly known as the Angry Young Men, is now called the Determined Young Men.

The dedication and responsibility which AJC chapters and members have demonstrated are also exemplified by a St. Louis couple who arrange monthly educational trips in the St. Louis area for youngsters from the inner-city. Says Jack Deutsch, chairman of the Chapter's subcommittee working on this project, "The talking days are over. Whatever we do is minute and the more you think about it the more minute it gets. Nevertheless, we were aware enough to know that things don't change by themselves. We felt an urgency to do something."

The summary of projects which Chapters throughout the country are engaged in comprise a variety of new and tried; of educational cam-

paigns directed at Christians, at blacks and at Jews; of working with militants, moderates and conservatives. The projects vary as the areas vary, as the local needs and the local orientations differ. The common denominator, as a result of the bitter lessons of 1967 riots, of 1968 assassinations and of increasing awareness and disquiet, is the determination to do something. The prospectus of the Cincinnati's Determined Young Men expresses the objectives of AJC chapters in response to the Kerner Report. "Latent energies for Negro self-development should be enabled to mature for the benefit of the entire community. This program can make possible those goals and further enable communication across racial lines, destroy stereotypes, halt polarization, and distrust and hostility, create common ground for efforts toward common goals of public order and social justice."

Partly as a result of the warnings of the Kerner Report, many voluntary, secular and religious groups have embarked on projects to alleviate urban distress. The new administration in Washington has announced its reliance primarily on private efforts to solve our urban problems, and many organizations have redoubled their energies in this direction. Among them have been various church and synagogue groups (the Unitarian Universalist Association includes in its kit for study action on the Kerner Report the American Jewish Committee's Thought Starters for Local Action), the Urban Coalition, the National Alliance of Businessmen, the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, the Chamber of Commerce, the National Urban League and hundreds of other civic and business groups. Efforts in many communities have been outstanding; some individual projects and organizational endeavors have demonstrated originality and extraordinary commitment.

Nevertheless, all the gains in the war on poverty, many people feel, would be wiped out if the nation bought the prescription of the Business Council for a little more unemployment -- as high as 5.5 percent -- to choke off inflation. They note that such unemployment could be expected to increase nonwhite unemployment to about 11 percent, and unemployment of nonwhite teenagers to far more than its current level of nearly 27 percent. Calling for subsidy of the jobless, Ben Heineman, president of Northwest Industries, told Fortune magazine, "We are clearly past the stage where we can buy stability with unemployment." He is joined by Henry Ford II, chairman of Ford Motor Co., who adds: "The cure for national economic problems should not come at the expense of those who can least afford to bear it."

Joseph Block, chairman of Inland Steel's executive committee, speaks not only for concerned businessmen but also for many of us, when he warns the nation: "If you really want to solve the problems of the inner cities, the only answer remains big amounts of tax dollars. Sure, private industry can do some things, but the government must be the prime mover."

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Employment

St. Louis Chapter helped set up a St. Louis JACS (Joint Action in Community Services) which assists young men returning from the Job Corps to find jobs, and adjust to "civilian" life.

Members of the Pittsburgh Chapter who are employers have contacted a local action group which recruits among blacks. The employers offer on-the-job training and arrange transportation from the poverty areas to the plant. The Chapter has been taking referrals for skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled positions listed by employer members.

In Seattle, AJC leadership has taken the initiative within the Jewish Federation and Council to enlist Jewish employers in the efforts of the National Alliance of Businessmen to provide jobs for the hard-core unemployed and to set up on-the-job training programs.

The Cleveland Chapter's Urban Affairs Committee contacted 36 companies owned by Jews and obtained commitments of 16 jobs immediately available and 23 additional ones soon to be opened for long-term unemployed.

The Detroit Chapter works with the Volunteer Placement Corps which has been successful in placing in jobs many of those with low labor skills and little employment experience.

In Kansas City, AJC employers are part of On-The-Job Company, a project for recruiting and training hard-core unemployed under a Department of Labor grant. The Jewish Vocational Service is providing social and educational services to enable the workers to continue with the program.

Members of the Los Angeles Chapter participate in the National Alliance of Businessmen. Joseph Magnin Department Stores has trained 35 Negroes to work in their sales force and in other areas formerly closed to blacks. The program has been an outstanding success. The training manual for personnel interviewers prepared by AJC, to sensitize executives to the needs of minority applicants and employees, is being widely utilized.

AJC served as catalyst in bringing together hotel owners and Urban League representatives to work out a program for upgrading employees at hotels in Miami. Hotel managers are seeking to hire Negroes in middle management and the Urban League is developing a program for enrolling Negroes for waiter-training.

The Newark Chapter is working with Project TEAM (Total Employment and Manpower), a local poverty group. The Urban Affairs Committee initiated a plan to train power sewing machine operators, provided sewing machines and arranged for an instructor.

The pilot project of the Dallas Chapter completed last year for on-the-job classes in literacy and communications skills for employed functional illiterates, has now been adopted as a regular program by Neiman-Marcus and is being studied for the same purpose by another local department store.

As an offshoot of the AJC co-sponsored conference on minorities in the mass media, the New York Urban Coalition has set up an inter-media

"skills bank." The central registry and job placement agency will help minority group members, principally Negroes and Puerto Ricans, to secure jobs or promotions on newspapers, magazines and broadcasting. The New York Chapter is also compiling a list of employers who will make jobs available to blacks and other disadvantaged peoples. The project, known as Coalition Jobs, is aimed at proprietors of small businesses rather than the large-scale employers who are part of Urban Coalition. "Hiring halls" will be located at neighborhood schools. An all-out effort will be made to obtain pledges from businessmen through a concerted appeal from rabbis at a specified Sabbath service.

Some months ago, the New York Chapter joined Project Equality, an interreligious effort to use the purchasing power of religious groups to promote affirmative action for job equality. Now it has begun compiling a list of AJC suppliers who will receive letters urging their adherence to non-discriminatory employment policies and guidelines on how these policies can be implemented.

In Atlanta, the AJC Chapter and the Jewish Welfare Federation are participating in Project Equality. Cleveland's Jewish Community Relations Council has also joined Project Equality. Most of the Jewish organizations in Baltimore, including AJC and many congregations, have signed up with the Project.

Intergroup Relations

In the wake of the school strike and the eruption of anti-Semitism, Mayor Lindsay of New York appointed a special Committee on Racial and Religious Prejudice to investigate the extent and nature of anti-Semitism in the city. The local Chapter helped gather data, and offered suggestions to alleviate the tensions and improve intergroup relations. During the weeks of the strike there were increasingly angry confrontations between some parents and teachers, continuous charges, denunciations and recriminations and an upsurge in anti-Semitism and racism in the city. To counteract the growing tension, the Chapter initiated a full-page advertisement in The New York Times calling for reason and moderation. Signatories to the ad included Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, white and Negro leaders.

Black militants, who are part of the Black Coalition with whom the Philadelphia Chapter is developing recreational and business projects, were moderating influences in several high school incidents. According to newspaper reports, two of the leaders worked closely with school and police officials in keeping the lid on a highly combustible recent school situation. There are other situations which "can erupt tomorrow," writes the Philadelphia Area Director. However, the relationship (between AJC and Black Coalition) "we have established so far appears to have been useful in helping to maintain community peace." A member of the AJC staff is working on a North Side committee set up to ease racial tensions at neighborhood high schools in Chicago.

As a result of work with local schools during a controversy on consolidation of school districts for the purpose of integration and educational improvement, Long Island AJC has been asked to help the schools explain to neighboring communities the problems related to integration and to intercede in moderating conflicts within their communities. AJC

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has also helped a local group, formerly antagonistic to the school system, to obtain the services of an educational consultant, which in turn has enabled parties in the community to work out their problems more amicably.

As a result of a proposal initiated by the Milwaukee Chapter, the local Jewish Federation sponsored a week-end leadership training program in human relations which was attended by representatives of its local beneficiary agencies and other leading Jewish organizations in the community. The participants will lead discussions on current intergroup relations problems with the trustees of their own organizations and other groups in the community. Six AJC members participated in this experience which was designed and led by the Boston University Human Relations Laboratory.

Also in Milwaukee, human relations workshops in a suburban school district have been set up as a result of a Chapter-commissioned study of human relations training and material in five suburban schools.

At the suggestion of the Boston Chapter, the Massachusetts Teachers Association has created an ad hoc committee to explore the development of human relations programs in the public schools and colleges for teachers in the state.

The Seattle Chapter was represented on the planning and steering committee of Seattle's Annual Human Rights Conference for High School Students. It served as consultant in arranging a high school program on prejudice and intergroup understanding. At the request of the City Council, the chapter supplied background material to participants at the Council's two-day seminar on human relations. The Chapter guided the formulation of recommendations emanating from that seminar. AJC and other Jewish groups in Seattle are involved in joint explorations with representatives of Negro groups to contain manifestations of anti-Semitism.

The New York Chapter held a two-day conference for Black Jewish leaders. The conference was attended by a variety of people - young and middle-aged, conservative and militant, professional and semi-skilled workers - and was characterized by frank and earnest discussion in which the group attempted to clarify its needs and objectives. Members of the Interreligious Affairs Committee and staff acted as observers and arrangers. The Black Jewish community in New York comprises approximately 10,000 people.

A dispute on contract home purchases in Chicago turned out to be a conflict between Negro home buyers and Jewish sellers. The Chicago Chapter persuaded the parties to consider arbitration and arranged negotiations between the buyers and sellers. Although the arbitration process was eventually turned down and the contract buyers have brought their cases to court, serious confrontations have been avoided and lawful means are being used to solve the problem.

Southwest Regional staff helped plan the 10th Annual Human Relations Seminar held at the University of Oklahoma this past summer. AJC

national Race Relations Coordinator gave the keynote address before an audience of more than 200 law enforcement officials, public school teachers and administrators, social workers, human relations professionals and clergy.

The Pittsburgh Chapter has assisted the City Human Relations Commission in recruiting Negroes who can be developed for community leadership positions.

During a visit to the Southwest Region, the Director of the national Intergroup Relations and Social Action Department was consulted by members of a nominating committee concerned with establishing a Dallas Commission on Human Relations on the goals and scope of their program.

Members of AJC in Omaha have organized a petition campaign to strengthen the functions of the Omaha Human Relations Board. The petitions recommend the adoption of strong enforcement powers.

The Washington, D.C. Chapter provided office space and offered staff services to the Metropolitan Association of Human Relations Organizations (MAHRO), the first major metropolitan coordinating effort in the field of human relations.

The Philadelphia Chapter presented its 1968 Human Relations Award to the Jewish Employment and Vocational Service for its pioneering role in "developing new ways of making Judaism relevant in the current racial crisis."

Project Bridge in Cleveland, started last summer, is an interracial, suburban-urban project intended "to bridge the communication gap" between white and black communities. Last summer the group called on 31,000 homes and interviewed 16,000 people. About 25 suburbanites have been attending leadership training classes, after which they will form survey groups and action committees in their own areas. Project Bridge's governing board members include representatives of the local chapter, community action corporations, NAACP, Catholic Interracial Council, mass media and university officials.

The Chicago Chapter has been working with various black, white, new, some militant and some established leaders in an attempt to keep anti-Semitism out of anticipated trouble spots and to find feasible solutions to the problems. These contacts have led to a series of informal monthly discussions at the chapter's office between youth groups and professionals in the human relations field and government officials.

In response to suggestions made by local Chapter representatives, the Detroit Jewish Community Relations Council is establishing an "Action Center" in a suburban area with a high Jewish population concentration. The Center will provide opportunities for joint activity and dialogue across racial and religious lines involving such matters as employment, housing, education, metropolitan political structures, business practices and law enforcement activities. Meanwhile, Detroit Chapter members are increasing their participation in the Inter-Faith Action Council which has taken on a more permanent structure.

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In developing training projects dealing with race relations and urban problems, Metropolitan Ecumenical Training Center (METC) has been working with AJC in Washington, D.C. in planning and executing a series of week-end seminars on race relations for religious and community leaders in suburban Prince George County. After evaluation of the pilot project, similar programs will be offered in other suburban areas around Washington. The program has been developed by METC and the Board of Rabbis together with AJC. The training is designed to increase understanding of the district's problems and to develop new skills for working in changing neighborhoods, with congregations demanding or resisting social change, and in resolving conflicts between groups. Two rabbis have participated in the training under partial scholarships provided by the local Chapter.

The Southwest Region raised over \$12,500 to be used to underwrite a series of Leadership Training Institutes for Mexican-American leaders in different sections of Texas similar to the prototype institute that was sponsored last year in cooperation with the Texas Council of Churches and the Texas Catholic Conference. Funds have been secured from both the latter two organizations and private foundations. The Southwest Region itself contributed \$1,000 toward this sum.

At the invitation of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), the director of Long Island AJC lectured at their Young Leadership Training Course. Some trainees visited the AJC staff to observe how Jewish agencies function in dealing with community problems and intergroup relations.

As a result of recommendations following a study by a special sub-committee of the Washington, D.C. Chapter's Urban Affairs Committee, The Federal City College, in cooperation with the American Arbitration Association, the Commission on Human Relations of the District of Columbia and other agencies, conducted a course which trained community arbitrator-mediators. Those who completed the training process are now certified by the AAA as qualified to serve on a panel from which selection can be made to settle community disputes.

Elsewhere in the country, similar work is being started to set up arbitration and mediation machinery for the settlement of community disputes, principally by propagating the idea and by developing panels of citizens to serve as arbitrators.

The volunteer-controlled Seattle Rumor Center, in which the Seattle Chapter played a central role, began functioning in July. Funds were obtained from private sources, churches and the Jewish Federation. The Center has gained the confidence of the community; it has been useful in calming tensions and in preventing violent confrontations. School principals have been asked to utilize the Center as a channel, to report quickly disturbances around school integration and to check with the Center about incoming rumors. Although the future of the Rumor Center is uncertain because of its temporary financing, its life has been prolonged by Chapter assistance.

With the National Conference of Christians and Jews and Loyola University, AJC in Los Angeles organized an interreligious and intergroup dialogue, "Dialogues Unlimited," in which nearly 400 men and women are participating. The local chapter also co-sponsored two week-end human relations programs with the Urban Affairs Department of Los Angeles City

Schools and the Los Angeles Human Relations Commission. Included were 100 senior and 100 junior high school students and many parents from an area which has become racially integrated in recent years.

The Providence Chapter co-sponsored with the Office of Economic Opportunity, Urban League, Human Relations Council and Providence College a conference on ethnic minorities. Seventy representatives of indigenous groups, professionals in the field of human relations, educators and labor leaders attended the conference.

Mass Media

The St. Louis Chapter cooperated with Washington University and key Catholic and Protestant groups in co-sponsoring a major leadership conference dealing with the mass media and race relations which was attended by over 50 representatives from the media, black militant organizations and civil rights groups. The local Area Director served as chairman of the conference which was funded by the Department of Justice's Community Relations Service.

The Cleveland Chapter made a financial contribution to the Mass Media and Race Relations Conference sponsored by the city's Community Relations Board in October. Staff served on the committee arranging the conference.

Public Education

The New York Chapter produced and directed a 13-week radio series entitled, "New York: A City in Crisis." Each panel consisted of recognized authorities of different racial, nationality and religious backgrounds who analyzed and proposed solutions for the most urgent problems affecting the New York City community in relation to the conclusions and recommendations of the Kerner Commission Report.

Denver Chapter members, representing AJC as one of four organizations asked to assist, have been working with a local radio station with a large following in the Negro community to develop a series of programs dealing with intergroup relations.

A three-part summary of the Kerner Report prepared by the Hartford Chapter was published in the Connecticut Jewish Ledger. The summary consisted of three full-page stories.

A meeting was held in December by the Bergen County Unit on the Kerner Report. Former New Jersey Governor Meyner, a member of the Commission, was guest speaker.

The Philadelphia Chapter has continued to sponsor off-the-record, informal meetings between black community leaders and mass media representatives including the managing editors, city editors and chief editorial writers of the local newspapers to exchange views on the handling of news developments in the Negro community.

In Dallas, AJC members comprise a major portion of the Jewish Federation Committee on education. Serving in two-man panels, the members of this group are speaking before Jewish organizations in the community to develop understanding and support for efforts dealing with urban problems.

Police-Community Relations

In Washington, D.C., area staff is serving on the Committee on Minority Police and Firemen Problems which has been formed to protect the interests of minority members of the police and fire departments. The Committee comprises a cross-section of white and Negro representatives of religious, civic, labor and civil rights groups.

The Atlanta Chapter will provide three scholarships for a Police-Community Relations Workshop at the University of Georgia. The Police Department will match the contribution, and it is hoped that other organizations will make similar grants. The Philadelphia Chapter has authorized scholarships in Police Science at Temple University for members of the local police force.

AJC has helped the Memphis Police Department to open a neighborhood storefront police center. In Cincinnati, the Chapter is setting up a series of Police-Community Relations Workshops.

Decentralization is not an issue confined to the schools. The Washington, D.C. Chapter has recommended to the City Council that police precinct advisory boards be elected rather than appointed. The Chapter also recommended that a city-wide advisory board be established with an adequate staff and budget of its own. The recommendation noted that a satisfactory police-community relationship depends on much more than elected police advisory boards, but elections, it contended, will help develop leadership in the local neighborhoods. In its statement, the Chapter declared that "Effective police-community relations require that there be a measure of mutual responsibility on the part of the police and the communities they serve, if the community support so necessary to effective police action in a democracy is to exist."

At the suggestion of the Westchester County, N.Y. Chapter, copies of THE POLICE ON THE URBAN FRONTIER are being distributed to all members of the New Rochelle Police Department. The Department is conducting weekly study sessions on the book for all personnel and intends to use it in training auxiliary police. Every Chief of Police in the County has been sent a copy of the pamphlet.

THE POLICE ON THE URBAN FRONTIER is being widely used by law enforcement officials and by civic and professional organizations in the Seattle area.

AJC was the only Jewish organization to be represented at a mass meeting in St. Louis protesting police harassment of black groups and civil rights workers. Subsequently, at the instigation of AJC members on the Jewish Community Relations Council, the JCRC issued a statement urging police restraint, strict observance of legal methods and full protection of individual liberties in the exercise of police power.

Economic Development

Miami's AJC Chapter is cooperating with the Greater Miami Urban League in developing a resource panel of experts (lawyers, educators, housing experts, businessmen, financiers) to counsel black people needing technical assistance and guidance in their own businesses.

The St. Louis Chapter's Business and Counseling Development Committee (Teamwork) is helping a group of Negroes launch their own landscaping and building maintenance company. The Committee helped the group work out its operating budget and fee system. The group has applied to the Small Business Administration and the banks for financial support. AJC members have agreed to invest in the company.

working through the Los Angeles Chapter, a paint manufacturer has arranged with a large and influential black organization, the Black Congress, to open a paint store which will be controlled and owned by the Black Congress. The monetary value of the store is estimated to be \$40,000.

The Determined Young Men, a group of young Cincinnati business and professional men whose purpose is to assist in the initiation and development of Negro business operations, is headed by two members of the Chapter's Executive Board. The Chapter has urged its members to join or support the Determined Young Men. In December, the Determined Young Men received a \$123,000 grant from the federal Economic Development Administration for staffing and administrative expenses. In order to obtain financing outside conventional channels, DYM has set up a non-profit Cincinnati Business Assistance Guarantee Fund and a corporation for profit, a Local Development Company. Banks will lend money to DYM projects on the strength of the guarantee provided by the non-profit fund. The Local Development Company will receive 90% of its funds for land, building, machinery and equipment in specific projects from Small Business Administration loans. By January 1969 there were 13 black-owned businesses with 56 employees for which DYM obtained financing. Members of DYM work closely with new businessmen, suggesting efficient use of space, recommending techniques and advising on purchasing and marketing of merchandise. For each business, there is an advisory management committee consisting of 4 or 5 individuals with skills pertaining to that field.

A team of Chicago Chapter members representing skills in advertising, retail business and financing are helping a group of Negro youths develop a gasoline filling station business. Other chapter efforts are underway to raise "risk capital" and co-opt the business experience of chapter members in working with Negro entrepreneurs.

Representatives of the Kansas City Chapter met with members of the Negro Industrial Economic Union, a local organization interested in promoting Negro business enterprises, and is helping that organization raise funds for its efforts.

San Francisco Chapter has circulated to its members information on Experience Reserve Bank, which has been created to help Negroes in business.

Education

One hundred AJC volunteers are working with the Los Angeles city schools as tutors and teachers' aides in disadvantaged areas. The program has been in operation for the past three years.

The scholarship program being jointly sponsored by the Long Island Division of the New York Chapter and the New York Urban League for future pharmacists enrolled its first student at the Brooklyn College School of Pharmacy this past September.

In accepting the William J. Schroder Award from the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds for its overall project in the Glenville area, the President of the Cleveland Jewish Federation specifically cited AJC's local Chapter for its work with the Glenville Scholars' Club. Volunteer AJC members serve as counselors with outstanding students at Glenville High School, which is located in the Negro neighborhood, who are planning to go to college. Counseling begins in the student's sophomore year and continues until graduation. Started in 1966, the program includes assistance in procuring summer jobs, medical examinations, tours of college campuses, testing and preparations for college board exams.

The Milwaukee Chapter instituted a summer program of counseling to advise and prepare high school students for college. Thirty-five AJC women offered their services as tutors with the Upward Bound program at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee; the Chapter has contributed financially toward the program.

In January, Great Neck, a suburb on Long Island, was plunged into a bitter educational dispute with racial, religious, economic and political implications. A proposal to bus 45 to 60 Negro and Puerto Rican children from New York City to Great Neck threatened to turn a modest educational proposal into a Negro-Jewish clash. The Long Island Division supported the proposal and urged its adoption. The Board voted for the proposal despite indications that a majority of the community opposed it. In commending the Board for its courageous action, AJC offered its services in preparing programs, meetings and conferences for improving the atmosphere in the community and broadening its understanding of racial and religious sensitivities.

The Westchester Chapter interested the local branch of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in the cooperative distribution of the bibliography published by AJC, Negro History and Literature: A Selected Annotated Bibliography to principals and social studies administrators in the County.

AJC's publication The Shortchanged Children of Suburbia is being widely used by administrators and educators in the city and suburbs of Seattle.

Essex County, N.J. Chapter members were hosts to a youth group in Newark, "Teen Age Idols," on a tour of the Rutgers campus. Other trips which the chapter is arranging for the group include visits to the Newark Museum, the airport and a nearby zoo.

Through the interest of Kansas City Chapter leadership, the school system arranged for a symposium of doctors, psychologists and social workers from the Menninger Foundation to address 200 teachers from inner city schools on the problems of teaching disadvantaged youngsters as part of a special training program. The Chapter furnished transportation to the Foundation for the meeting. The relationship between the Menninger Foundation and the city school system, begun with this conference, is being continued and expanded.

A dozen members of the Essex County, N.J. Chapter have been recruited to work as volunteer teacher aides in Newark elementary schools.

AJC national staff and Detroit Chapter representatives met with the local superintendent of schools and the school board attorney to discuss the Board's suit against the state of Michigan. The suit challenges the constitutionality of the present formula for allocating state aid to local school districts on the ground that differentials in the need for funds by individual school boards are ignored to the detriment of disadvantaged pupils in inner-city schools. It is expected that the suit will reach trial stage of late spring. The Detroit Chapter is supporting this suit.

Housing

The Pittsburgh Chapter has been engaged in a variety of activities relating to the rehabilitation of run-down housing and subsequent renting of the improved quarters to over 50 low-income families. This has included privately sponsored efforts as well as one conducted by the Pittsburgh Housing Authority.

Members of the Cincinnati Chapter have opened accounts in two local banks which need deposits in order to make mortgage loans to Negro home buyers.

Through members who are builders, developers or apartment house owners, the Miami Chapter is seeking cooperation for implementation of the 1968 Fair Housing Law.

The Westchester County Chapter testified before the White Plains Common Council that it opposed a proposal to decontrol rents on apartments as vacancies occur, because decontrol would shrink the already inadequate supply of low and middle income housing in the city.

As an outgrowth of a discussion on housing needs at one of the periodic luncheon meetings sponsored by the Essex County, N.J. Chapter with Negro leaders, Chapter members secured as a contribution a six family, four story brick structure to be turned over to a local association to be rehabilitated and made available for renting to low income families

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as a cooperative. Under the conditions of the gift, labor from the community is to be used for the rehabilitation and the association, which is to be incorporated, will organize and develop the project on a non-profit basis.

Long Island Division testified at Town hearings in favor of a proposed North Hempstead open-housing ordinance.

In November the Dallas AJC co-sponsored a public forum with the League of Women Voters, Community Interracial Council, the Political Association of Spanish Speaking Organizations and other local groups working for fair housing and improvement in intergroup relations. AJC members in the Dallas Chapter played an active role in raising funds and securing signatures for an ad sponsored by a local fair-housing organization. Ads placed in the two leading Dallas newspapers contained 1,200 signatures of persons pledged to follow fair-housing practices in the sale of homes and in welcoming Negro and Hispano-American neighbors.

Recreation

The St. Louis Chapter has been arranging monthly educational trips for youngsters from the inner city. One Saturday a month, a family takes four boys and girls (the same four each time) from the inner city on visits to their homes, to the zoo, airport, a baseball game and the planetarium. The Chapter also conducts monthly group outings for sixth graders in the inner-city school.

After a lengthy period of informal discussions and explorations, the Philadelphia Chapter has agreed to assist a group of black militants in the establishment of the "South Philadelphia Training Center" which will be used as a social center and job training facility for Negro teenagers in the area. The first step will be the rehabilitation of a house in the area by the teenagers themselves, under technical supervision supplied by Chapter members and neighborhood people.

Thirty middle-class Negro and Jewish boys and girls took part last summer in a cultural exchange at an overnight camp, which was arranged by the Los Angeles Chapter.

Through the assistance of chapter members and their friends participating in the Viewpoints discussion group programs sponsored by the Chicago Chapter, 35 inner-city youngsters were enrolled in day camp programs during the past summer.

With the participation of Denver Chapter members, the financing and program activities of the Cultural Center recently established for Spanish-speaking Americans has progressed to the point where a half-time director has been employed and it is expected that the position will soon be full time.

General

A local neighborhood group in Newark has opened a "buying club" in consultation with members of the Essex County, N.J. Chapter. It is hoped that as experience is gained in the operation of this enterprise it will serve as prelude to opening a larger cooperative supermarket operation.

The Philadelphia Chapter has committed \$6,000 to Haven House which treats children with birth defects among black families. The Chapter is working with the Mercy Douglass Hospital (a black hospital) on a project to provide prenatal and postnatal services.

The Boston Chapter joined with other organizations in supporting the continuation of special public transportation from Negro neighborhoods in the inner city to the large suburban industrial complex surrounding Boston.

The summary of activities is based on reports received by the Community Services Department from Regional and Area Directors through February 15.

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